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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A patient data information system, comprising:
 - 2 a display unit;
 - 3 a first application configured to display patient images for a patient on the display unit;
 - 5 a second application; and
 - 6 a workstation coupled to the display unit and configured to operate the first application, the first application configured to generate a patient context for the patient, provide the patient context to the second application, and display patient data from the second application based on the patient context.
2. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the first application is configured to retrieve patient image data from a picture archival and communication system (PACS).
3. The patient data information system of claim 2, wherein the second application is configured to retrieve patient textual data from a radiology information system (RIS), wherein the patient data includes the patient textual data.
4. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a monitor having a resolution of at least 90 dpi.
5. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the second application is selected from the group consisting of a case signout application, a report entry application, an order detailing application, and an order viewer application.

1 6. The patient data information system of claim 1, further
2 comprising a second workstation coupled to the workstation, the second
3 workstation configured to operate the second application.

1 7. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the
2 second application is coupled to the first application via an object request
3 broker.

1 8. The patient data information system of claim 7, further
2 comprising a bridge coupled between the second application and the
3 object request broker, wherein the second application communicates via
4 the component object model (COM).

1 9. The patient data information system of claim 1, further
2 comprising an input unit, the first application generating the patient
3 context in response to user input at the input unit.

1 10. The patient data information system of claim 9, wherein the
2 input unit is selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a voice
3 recognition system, a keystroke, a switch, and a light pen.

1 11. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the
2 patient context includes patient identification data.

1 12. The patient data information system of claim 11, wherein the
2 patient context includes user identification data.

1 13. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the
2 patient data includes patient examination information.

1 14. A method of integrating patient data from first and second
2 applications, comprising:

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3 displaying a first set of patient data using the first
4 ~~application;~~
5 generating a patient context for a patient;
6 providing the patient context from the first application to the
7 second application;
8 receiving a second set of patient data from the second
9 application; and
10 displaying the second set of patient data.

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15. The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving the
first set of patient data from an image database.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising retrieving the
2 second set of patient data from a radiology information system.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the patient context
2 includes patient identification data.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of providing
2 includes generating an event based on the patient context and providing
3 the event to the second application.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising converting the
2 event from a first object model to a second object model and providing
3 the converted event to the second application.

1 20. The method of claim 14, wherein the second application is
2 selected from the group consisting of a case signout application, a report
3 entry application, an order detailing application, and an order viewer
4 application.

1 21. The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving an
2 operator input from an input unit and generating the patient context for
3 the patient in response to the operator input.

1 22. The method of claim 14, wherein the second set of patient
2 data includes patient examination information.

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A1 3 23. An apparatus for integrating patient data from first and
4 second applications comprising:

1 a means for displaying a first set of patient data using the
2 first application;
3 a means for generating a patient context for a patient;
4 a means for providing the patient context from the first
5 application to the second application;
6 a means for receiving a second set of patient data from the
7 second application; and
8 a means for displaying the second set of patient data..

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising a means for
2 retrieving the first set of patient data from an image database.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising a means for
2 retrieving the second set of patient data from a radiology information
3 system.

1 26. The method of claim 23, wherein the patient context
2 includes the means for identifying a patient..

1 27. The method of claim 23, wherein the means for providing
2 includes a means for generating an event based on the patient context
3 and providing the event to the second application.

1 28. The method of claim 27, further comprising a means for
2 converting the event from a first object model to a second object model
3 and a means for providing the converted event to the second application.

1 29. The method of claim 23, wherein the second application is
2 selected from the group consisting of a case signout application, a report
3 entry application, an order detailing application, and an order viewer
4 application.

1 30. The method of claim 23, further comprising a means for
2 receiving an operator input and generating the patient context for the
3 patient in response to the operator input.

1 31. The method of claim 23, wherein the second set of patient
2 data includes a means for providing patient examination information.

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